Print Page 1 of 32

Message: Re: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

Case Information:

Message Type: Exchange

Message Direction: External, Inbound
Case: GOV_10032017_Search
Capture Date: 10/3/2017 9:43:21 AM

Item ID: 29388098
Policy Action: Not Specified

Re: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

From Thurman, Erik Date Thursday, April 13, 2017 4:43 PM

To Briden, Parker

Cc Houts, Megg; Eisterhold, Caty

Online here: http://on.mo.gov/2nKrL4n

Erik Thurman OA-ITSD Video Team (573) 751-7630

Erik.Thurman@oa.mo.gov

From: "Briden, Parker" <parker.briden@governor.mo.gov>

Date: Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 4:28 PM

Subject: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

For Immediate Release

Contact: Parker Briden (573) 691-9237

April 13, 2017

Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

Today, <u>Governor Greitens announced</u> that his administration is reversing policies that previously discriminated against religious organizations.

"Before we came into office, government bureaucrats were under orders to deny grants to people of faith who wanted to do things like make community playgrounds for kids... That's just wrong... We have hundreds of outstanding religious organizations all over the state of Missouri who are doing great work on behalf of kids and families every single day. We should be encouraging that work. So, today we are changing that prejudiced policy," said Greitens.

Before the Greitens administration took office, the Missouri Department of

Print Page 2 of 32

Natural Resources (DNR) denied religious organizations access to multiple state grant programs, just because the organizations were religious.

Governor Greitens has instructed the Department of Natural Resources to allow religious organizations to apply for and be eligible to receive DNR grants. Now, religious organizations will have their applications judged on the merits like any other applicant. DNR will also update its application materials, so that religious organizations are no longer prohibited from applying.

The move is being praised by leaders in the faith community.

"We applaud the Governor's move to make sure these non-sectarian DNR grants and programs are available to all children without religious discrimination," said Mike Hoey, Executive Director of the Missouri Catholic Conference, the public policy agency for the Catholic Church in Missouri. "The education and safety of our children should be considered foremost in these grant programs, not the type of school the children attend."

"Governor Greitens 'gets' what our Founding Fathers understood: that faith is an integral part of our national identity. There are common places where people of faith and state can work together to accomplish the common good such as safety, education, rehab, foster/orphan care, and other contexts where qualified religious organizations meet and, in most cases, exceed the state requirements," said Dr. John Yeats, Executive Director of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

"We applaud Governor Greitens for his actions today, which we believe will benefit all Missouri children, regardless of where they attend school. Like all Missourians, we want better and safer schools for our children. Through the implementation of this policy, the Governor is making that happen," said Daniel Lefton, President, Board of Trustees, Epstein Hebrew Academy.

Under the old policy, DNR denied a request from a preschool, owned by a Columbia church, for a Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant to replace its playground surface. The case, brought by Trinity Lutheran, is pending before the United States Supreme Court.

According to The Washington Times, "A playground spat over surfacing

Print Page 3 of 32

made out of scrap tires is looming as a pivotal church-state separation case, one that religious freedom advocates say could provide relief from what they see as government hostility toward faith."

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Case Information:

Message Type: Exchange

Message Direction: External, Inbound
Case: GOV_10032017_Search
Capture Date: 10/3/2017 9:43:20 AM

Item ID: 29387940
Policy Action: Not Specified

Re: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

From wschmitt@springi.gannett.com Date Thursday, April 13, 2017 4:46 PM

To Briden, Parker

Cc

Journal parker.briden@governor.mo.gov

Recipie nts

Why did DNR deny applications from religious organizations? Did they provide a legal reason?

Sent from my iPhone

For Immediate Release

Contact: Parker Briden (573) 691-9237

April 13, 2017

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Print Page 6 of 32

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Case Information:

Message Type: Exchange

Message Direction: External, Inbound
Case: GOV_10032017_Search
Capture Date: 10/3/2017 9:43:20 AM

Item ID: 29387941
Policy Action: Not Specified

RE: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious

Freedom

From Greg Dailey Date Thursday, April 13, 2017 4:47 PM

To Briden, Parker

Cc

Journal parker.briden@governor.mo.gov

Recipie nts

image001.png (27 Kb нтмL)

Thanks, Parker.

Question for you here...does this mean the governor is wanting to amend Article 1, Section 7 of the Missouri Constitution?

Thanks for your time,

Greg Dailey

Digital Executive Producer Jefferson City/Columbia 10188 Old US Hwy 54 New Bloomfield, MO 65063

gpdailey@sbgtv.com Main: 573.896.0061

Mobile:



KRCGSignatureN

From: Briden, Parker [mailto:parker.briden@governor.mo.gov]

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 4:29 PM

Print Page 9 of 32

Subject: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

For Immediate Release

Contact: Parker Briden (573) 691-9237

April 13, 2017

Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

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Print Page 13 of 32

Message: RE: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

Case Information:

Message Type: Exchange

Message Direction: External, Inbound
Case: GOV_10032017_Search
Capture Date: 10/3/2017 9:43:20 AM

Item ID: 29387942
Policy Action: Not Specified

RE: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious

Freedom

From Briden, Parker **Date** Thursday, April 13, 2017 4:50 PM

To rosenbaumj@umsl.edu

Cc

Today.

From: Rosenbaum, Jason A. [mailto:rosenbaumj@umsl.edu]

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 4:41 PM

To: Briden, Parker <parker.briden@governor.mo.gov>

Subject: RE: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

When did this policy go into effect?

From: Briden, Parker [mailto:parker.briden@governor.mo.gov]

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 4:29 PM

Subject: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

For Immediate Release

Contact: Parker Briden (573) 691-9237

April 13, 2017

Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

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Print Page 15 of 32

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Case Information:

Message Type: Exchange

Message Direction: External, Inbound
Case: GOV_10032017_Search
Capture Date: 10/3/2017 9:43:20 AM

Item ID: 29387943
Policy Action: Not Specified

RE: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious

Freedom

From Briden, Parker **Date** Thursday, April 13, 2017 5:00 PM

To wschmitt@springi.gannett.com

Cc

The reasons for denying those applications are subject to the litigation before the Supreme Court, known as the Trinity Lutheran case.

From: Schmitt, William [mailto:wschmitt@springfi.gannett.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 4:46 PM

To: Briden, Parker <parker.briden@governor.mo.gov>

Subject: Re: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

Why did DNR deny applications from religious organizations? Did they provide a legal reason?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 13, 2017, at 4:30 PM, Briden, Parker parker.briden@governor.mo.gov wrote:

For Immediate Release

Contact: Parker Briden (573) 691-9237

April 13, 2017

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Case Information:

Message Type: Exchange

Message Direction: External, Inbound
Case: GOV_10032017_Search
Capture Date: 10/3/2017 9:43:20 AM

Item ID: 29387944
Policy Action: Not Specified

Re: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

From bwatson-at-newstribune.com Date Thursday, April 13, 2017 5:24 PM

To Briden, Parker

Cc

Journal parker.briden@governor.mo.gov

Recipie nts

Parker ---

The DNR defense in the Trinity Lutheran case included the argument that providing funding for the playground stuff violated the Missouri Constitution's "Blaine Amendment" language prohibiting taxpayer money to religious institutions.

I understand that's a controversial reason --- that's one of the reasons they're on the U.S. Supreme Court docket.

And I understand that the argument has been made that items for a playground is a SAFETY issue, not a religious one.

But, with all that being said, what is the governor's position on the Article 9, Section 8, language that prohibits making "anything in aid of any religious creed, church or sectarian purpose, or to help to support or sustain any private or public school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other institution of learning controlled by any religious creed, church or sectarian denomination whatever ..."?

Bob Watson JC News Tribune 4-13-2017

From: "parker briden" <parker.briden@governor.mo.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 4:28:55 PM

Subject: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

For Immediate Release

Contact: Parker Briden (573) 691-9237

April 13, 2017

Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious

Print Page 21 of 32

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Print Page 24 of 32

Message: Delivery delayed:Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

Case Information:

Message Type: Exchange

Message Direction: External, Inbound
Case: GOV_10032017_Search
Capture Date: 10/3/2017 9:43:20 AM

Item ID: 29387945
Policy Action: Not Specified

■ Delivery delayed:Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

From Mail Delivery Subsystem **Date** Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:00 PM

To ssmith@pulaskicountymirror.com

Cc

Journal parker.briden@governor.mo.gov

Recipie nts

Material Control of the Control of t

** THIS IS A WARNING MESSAGE ONLY **

The original message was received at Thu, 13 Apr 2017 16:29:13 -0500 from momail4.mo.gov [127.0.0.1]

----- Transcript of session follows -----

<ssmith@pulaskicountymirror.com>... Deferred: Name server: pulaskicountymirror.com.: host name lookup failure

Warning: message still undelivered after 4 hours Will keep trying until message is 5 days old

Print Page 25 of 32

For Immediate Release

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April 13, 2017

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Governor Greitens has instructed the Department of Natural Resources to allow religious organizations to apply for and be eligible to receive DNR grants. Now, religious organizations will have their applications judged on the merits like any other applicant. DNR will also update its application materials, so that religious organizations are no longer prohibited from applying.

The move is being praised by leaders in the faith community.

"We applaud the Governor's move to make sure these non-sectarian DNR grants and programs are available to all children without religious discrimination," said Mike Hoey, Executive Director of the Missouri Catholic Conference, the public policy agency for the Catholic Church in Missouri. "The education and safety of our children should be considered foremost in these grant programs, not the type of school the children attend."

"Governor Greitens 'gets' what our Founding Fathers understood: that faith is an integral part of our national identity. There are common places where people of faith and state can work

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together to accomplish the common good such as safety, education, rehab, foster/orphan care, and other contexts where qualified religious organizations meet and, in most cases, exceed the state requirements," said Dr. John Yeats, Executive Director of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

"We applaud Governor Greitens for his actions today, which we believe will benefit all Missouri children, regardless of where they attend school. Like all Missourians, we want better and safer schools for our children. Through the implementation of this policy, the Governor is making that happen," said Daniel Lefton, President, Board of Trustees, Epstein Hebrew Academy.

Under the old policy, DNR denied a request from a preschool, owned by a Columbia church, for a Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant to replace its playground surface. The case, brought by Trinity Lutheran, is pending before the United States Supreme Court.

According to <u>The Washington Times</u>, "A playground spat over surfacing made out of scrap tires is looming as a pivotal church-state separation case, one that religious freedom advocates say could provide relief from what they see as government hostility toward faith."

Today's action by Governor Greitens is not expected to affect the *Trinity Lutheran* case before the Supreme Court because that case involves a 2012 DNR decision that became final years before the Greitens administration took office. It does ensure that future groups will not be discriminated against based on religion again.

Under the previous administration, DNR required many grant applicants to certify that they were not religious organizations. For example, the previous Playground Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant Application Form required applicants to certify that:

"The applicant is not owned or controlled by a church, sect, or denomination of religions and the grant would not directly aid any church, sect or denomination of religion."

Some religious organizations applied anyway. DNR denied grants to religious organization applicants in at least four different grant programs: Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant Program (playground surfaces); Bus Grant Program (school field trip transportation); Cost-Share Program (erosion control); and Solid Waste Management District Grants (recycling efforts).

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In 2016, 65 schools applied to DNR to fund field trips to state parks. DNR granted 62 applications. The only three applications not granted came from religious schools: St. Joseph School in Westphalia, Christ Church Christian School in Warrensburg, and St. James Catholic School in Liberty. The last administration left these three applications pending. Governor Greitens has instructed DNR to move forward with these applications like any other.

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Message: Fwd: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

Case Information:

Message Type: Exchange

Message Direction: External, Inbound
Case: GOV_10032017_Search
Capture Date: 10/3/2017 9:43:20 AM

Item ID: 29387946
Policy Action: Not Specified

Fwd: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious

Freedom

From Briden, Parker Date Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:53 PM

To hasson@dailycaller.com

Cc

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Briden, Parker" < <u>parker.briden@governor.mo.gov</u>>

Date: April 13, 2017 at 4:28:55 PM CDT

Subject: Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

For Immediate Release

Contact: Parker Briden (573) 691-9237

April 13, 2017

Governor Greitens Announces New Policy to Defend Religious Freedom

Today, <u>Governor Greitens announced</u> that his administration is reversing policies that previously discriminated against religious organizations.

"Before we came into office, government bureaucrats were under orders to deny grants to people of faith who wanted to do things like make community playgrounds for kids... That's just wrong... We have hundreds of outstanding religious organizations all over the state of Missouri who are doing great work on behalf of kids and families every single day. We should be encouraging that work. So, today we are changing that prejudiced policy," said Greitens.

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"Governor Greitens 'gets' what our Founding Fathers understood: that faith is an integral part of our national identity. There are common places where people of faith and state can work together to accomplish the common good such as safety, education, rehab, foster/orphan care, and other contexts where qualified religious organizations meet and, in most cases, exceed the state requirements," said Dr. John Yeats, Executive Director of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

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other.
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Message: Meeting

Case Information:

Message Type: Exchange

Message Direction: External, Inbound
Case: GOV_10032017_Search
Capture Date: 10/3/2017 9:43:20 AM

Item ID: 29387947
Policy Action: Not Specified

Meeting

From Buxton, Jake Date Friday, April 14, 2017 4:10 PM

To Scharf, Will

Cc

Hey Will,

Below is the event I mentioned to you. Let me know if you are interested in taking the meeting!

Who: Kathy Forck, Servant Leader Team PLAY; Daniel Baker, Team Leader Legislation; Bonnie Lee, Team Leader Activism and Enforcement; Bridget Van Means, Team Leader You (Branding and Marketing).

What: Meet with leaders of Team PLAY, a pro-life advocacy group meeting to discuss a strategically potent response to the recent "ambulatory bill" and discuss critical information relative to Planned Parenthood's practices

When: Monday through Thursday, anytime

Where: governor's Office

Why: Opportunity to discuss pro-life strategies and meet with pro-life leaders

Contact: Kathy Forck, kathythebo@hotmail.com

Thanks,

Jake Buxton

Deputy Scheduler - Office of the Governor

Office: 573-751-1279 Cell: